

Date of Hearing: April 22, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Buffy Wicks, Chair

AB 1828 (Chen) – As Amended April 9, 2026

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 12 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: Yes

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill eliminates the requirement that professional liability bonds for legal document assistants, surety providers, and notaries public be formally recorded by a county recorder, and instead requires county clerks to file and retain the bonds for a minimum of six years. The bill also requires county clerks to provide registrants with a certified copy of the filed bond as proof of compliance.

FISCAL EFFECT:

Minor savings to county recorders from eliminating the requirement to record professional liability bonds. Minor, absorbable costs to county clerks for retaining bonds and providing certified copies. The net fiscal impact to counties is likely negligible, as the bill shifts an existing administrative function from one county office to another and authorizes counties to set fees at levels necessary to recover actual program costs. No state costs.

COMMENTS:

According to the author, the current process of requiring county clerks to transmit professional liability bonds to county recorders for formal recordation is unnecessarily cumbersome. Recording the bond has no bearing on its legal validity or on an aggrieved party's ability to make a claim against it. This bill consolidates the filing and retention process within the county clerk's office.

Analysis Prepared by: Shiran Zohar / APPR. / (916) 319-2081